

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the official action dated June 4, 2009. The claim amendments included herein are merely clarifying amendments and are not meant to change the intended scope of the claims. Thus, the amendments present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, and they should be entered in due course. Moreover, the amendments are manifest, requiring only a cursory review by the Examiner, thereby providing additional ground for their entry.

Claims 1-14 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-14 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 5-8, and 12-14 have been amended. Claims 1-14 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-14 are in condition for allowance and requests withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks (5659350) in view of Tsukakoshi et al. (5086426).

Claims 4 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks and Tsukakoshi as applied to claims 3 and 9, and further in view of Arai (6751401).

Applicant submits that the independent claims (claims 1, 5-8, and 12-14) are patentable over Hendricks, Tsukakoshi, and Arai (collectively "the cited references").

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a transmission/reception device and method. Each of the claims recites that a redistribution digital signal is transmitted/received. Each of the claims further recites that "the redistribution digital [signal is] formed on

the basis of packets of [a] received digital signal and frame transport packets which are not part of the received digital signal, the frame transport packets including a predefined area in which data can be written, and the formation of the redistribution [signal] includes writing information identifying the reception device in the predefined area and writing reception control information for the reception device in the predefined area," that "each frame transport packet [is] associated with a plurality of transport packets having the same format as the packets of the received digital signal," and that "the reception control information written in the frame transport packet correspond[s] to the transport packets associated with the frame transport packet." Supporting disclosure for the quoted recitation can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0084]-[0087], [0100], [0121], and Fig. 10.

None of the cited references discloses the quoted recitation. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 1, 5-8, and 12-14 are patentable over the cited references - taken either individually or in combination - on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicant believes that dependent claims 2-4 and 9-11 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as discussed in connection with the independent claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Application No.: 10/081,437

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-241

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully ` acknowledged.

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Respectfully submitted,

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